



HR0445

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On May 5, 2017, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 1628, otherwise known as the American Health Care Act (AHCA); and

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WHEREAS, In March of 2017, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that 24 million people would lose their health insurance if the AHCA were passed and implemented; of those 24 million people, 14 million are currently covered by Medicaid, which the AHCA would also slash by approximately \$880 billion over 10 years, putting some of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens at great risk; and

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WHEREAS, As a result of passage of the AHCA, Illinois could face a loss of \$40 billion in federal Medicaid funding over the next 10 years, affecting over one million Illinois residents who currently have coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and

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WHEREAS, Currently, Illinois is ranked 50th in the nation for capturing federal Medicaid dollars, putting the State in an extremely vulnerable position and unable to absorb more costs from the federal government; and

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WHEREAS, The AHCA also allows states to waive community rating, which bans insurers from charging higher premiums to

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1 those with pre-existing conditions and would result in much
2 higher premiums for people with pre-existing conditions; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of waiving the ban on pre-existing
4 conditions, the cost of insurance will increase for people with
5 pre-existing conditions such as cancer, diabetes, arthritis,
6 autistic disorder, seizures, asthma, kidney disease, and
7 children with disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, The AHCA also has a provision letting states waive
9 essential health benefits such as outpatient care, emergency
10 services, hospitalization, pregnancy, maternity, newborn care,
11 mental health, substance use disorder services, and pediatric
12 services; and

13 WHEREAS, Waiving of essential benefits puts mothers and
14 children at severe risk of losing coverage as plans on the
15 individual market can once again decide not to cover maternity
16 care as a result of the AHCA; and

17 WHEREAS, The law would also adopt a policy known as "per
18 capita cap" for Medicaid that would replace the current funding
19 mechanism, and rather than matching state spending, the AHCA
20 would give each state a set amount of money per person and
21 place specific caps for differing populations such as people
22 with disabilities, the elderly, and other at-risk populations;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, As a result of placing a cap on spending, people
3 with disabilities who rely on home and community-based services
4 through Medicaid, such as personal-attendant care, skilled
5 nursing, and specialized therapies could lose access to the
6 services they need in order to live independently and remain in
7 their homes; and

8 WHEREAS, The AHCA also places the elderly at risk; as
9 states continue to see rising populations as a result of the
10 baby boom generation, implementing a per capita cap on spending
11 may restrict a state's ability to keep up with demand for
12 services, resulting in premature institutionalization, lack of
13 services, and reduced quality of life for our seniors; and

14 WHEREAS, The AHCA poses a threat for persons with substance
15 abuse disorders; the opioid crisis in Illinois has placed a
16 heavier burden on the State's Medicaid program and has resulted
17 in an immense need for increased services; a per capita cap
18 will limit the State's ability to leverage additional monies in
19 times of crises or epidemic, further hampering the State's
20 ability to be responsive to the needs of its most vulnerable
21 populations during the most critical times; and

22 WHEREAS, The law allows states to impose work requirements

1 on those applying for Medicaid, which has not been proven to
2 increase employment among the poor and will meaningfully reduce
3 access to care for low-income families; and

4 WHEREAS, Medicare is a federal health insurance program
5 that currently pays for a variety of health care expenses for
6 senior citizens aged 65 and older and people with certain other
7 qualifying conditions only; and

8 WHEREAS, Medicare currently insures over 55 million
9 Americans, and nearly everyone over age 65; in Illinois alone,
10 over two million people receive Medicare benefits; and

11 WHEREAS, There have been recent legislative efforts at the
12 federal level to expand Medicare for all persons in the United
13 States, not just those currently eligible which would provide
14 coverage for all medically necessary services, including
15 doctor visits, hospital care, prevention programs, long-term
16 care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision,
17 prescription drug, and medical supply costs; and

18 WHEREAS, Children (unmarried and under age 22) can only
19 receive Medicare if they are disabled or have a qualifying
20 condition and make up less than 7% of the current population of
21 people on Medicare; and

1 WHEREAS, Expanding the federal Medicare program to those
2 who need care the most can be a positive step to strengthen our
3 nation's commitment to improving the health and safety of all
4 Americans and reduce the risk of cuts posed by the AHCA to
5 those that are most vulnerable; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 strongly urge the federal government, the United States
9 Congress, and the President of the United States to oppose the
10 American Health Care Act and to expand the federal Medicare
11 program for people most in need especially children, women, and
12 those with pre-existing conditions, that are put at extreme
13 risk as a result of passage of the American Health Care Act;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the Illinois Congressional Delegation, the United
17 States Congress, and the President of the United States.